(c) if so, whether any final decision, in this regard, has been taken and by when a legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) National Commission for Women has made some recommendations for the amendment of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 and section 304B IPC (dowry death). The main points of the recommendations are given in the enclosed statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the answer to USQ 1073 part (b)]. The recommendations are presently under examination in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It will not be possible at this stage to indicate any definite time-frame for a final decision to be taken in the matter or any legislation to be introduced in this regard.

Legislation for prevention of molestation and violence against women

1086. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared that a new legislation would be formed over the growing incidents of molestation and violence against women, and the Minister has called for stringent measures to check the menace;

(b) whether the Minister has also sought comments of the States about the proposed Bill for protection of women from sexual harassment at workplaces;

(c) whether a two-day State Women and Child Development Minister's Conference was held recently;

(d) if so, the main points dicussed; and

(e) how many State Governments have agreed to have such type of legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No such declaration has been made. However, there is need for implementation of the laws meant for the protection and empowerment of women.

(b) An earlier draft of the bill on protection of women from sexual harassment was circulated for comments to all State Governments and UT administrations in the year 2005.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Conference was held on 28th and 29th January, 2008.

(d) The Conference deliberated upon the status and efficacy of programmes, schemes and legislations of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, specifically, ICDS, child protection, women's social & economic empowerment, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, female foeticide and declining sex ratio and molestation and violence against women.

(e) Apropos the reply to part (b) above, no State Government expressed any opposition to a suitable law as such on the subject.